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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

List retrieval service 94 provides software applications with a list of basic information of knowledge entities 44 and may provide the identifiers of all corresponding business objects relating to knowledge entities. In one embodiment, for example, a set of criteria (e.g., names of customers or a range of order quantity) may be specified by a software application to retrieve a list of knowledge entities that match the criteria via list retrieval service 94. In other embodiments, a software application may use the list retrieval service 74 to retrieve batches of consecutive knowledge entities for processing. This service may be advantageous when a software application needs to display a list with basic information after performing a search and for ~~improving performance~~ improving performance when processing a high volume knowledge base.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

_____Pattern conversion service 104 converts one or more business object attributes into a particular pattern that may be based on certain rules. In one embodiment, the different combination of business object attribute values may be composed into a set of string values that may be treated as a pattern/characteristic for a knowledge entity. For example, the set of string values may provide a security code for access to a specific knowledge entity. In one embodiment, for example, pattern conversion service 104 may be used for providing access control to selected business objects.